

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for recovery of gas released from a high-pressure container into a closed chamber, comprising the steps of:

compressing gas drawn directly from the closed chamber with at least one high compression stage and returning the compressed gas to the high pressure chamber until gas pressure in the closed chamber falls below an inlet pressure limit value; and

after gas pressure has fallen below the inlet pressure limit value, compressing gas down directly from the closed chamber with at least one low compression stage and feeding the output of the at least one low compression stage into the inlet of the at least one high compression stage for further compression and return to the high pressure chamber.

~~Method for recovery of gas from a process that operates with gas under pressure, for which gas is sent from a high-pressure container into a closed chamber in which the process takes place, whereby the gas is compressed in multiple compression stages for recovery and is fed back into the high-pressure container, characterized in that the gas is compressed directly from the pressure prevailing in the chamber, at least one additional compression stage being used when the pressure in the chamber drops below a limit value.~~

2. (currently amended) The Method method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a multistage compressor or multiple compressors connected in series are used.

3. (currently amended) ~~The Method~~ method as claimed in Claim 1, ~~or 2, wherein characterized in that~~ the individual compression stages are supplied {with gas} directly according to the falling evacuation pressure of the chamber.

4. (currently amended) ~~The Method~~ method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1, through 3, wherein characterized in that~~ the gas with the highest compression capacity is compressed in the highest compression stage.

5. (currently amended) ~~The Method~~ method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1, through 4, wherein characterized in that~~ the pressure in the chamber is between 6 and 60 bar at the beginning of gas recovery and the pressure in the high-pressure container is between 8 and 62 bar.

6. (currently amended) ~~The Method~~ method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims Claim 1, through 5, wherein characterized in that~~ nitrogen, argon and, helium, ~~or other mixtures are compressed.~~

7. (currently amended) ~~Device for recovering gas from a process that operates with gas under pressure, in which the gas is removed from a high-pressure container (1) and which is used in a closed chamber (2), characterized in that the chamber (2) communicates with at least two compressors (3, 4) connected in series, forming at least two compression stages, or with each compression stage of a multistage compressor via connecting lines (10, 11) communicates directly without an intermediate storage, whereby the connecting lines (10, 11) include opening and closing overcurrent regulators (12, 13) or cut-off elements (6, 7) which are connected to a switching unit (8) which controls the~~

~~cut-off elements, and whereby the highest compression stage (4) of the compressors connected in series or of the multistage compressor is connected to communicate with the high-pressure container (1).~~

A device for recovery of gas released from a high-pressure container into a closed chamber, comprising:

at least one high compression compressor stage,

at least one low compression compressor stage,

gas lines directly connecting the closed container with each compression stage without intermediate storage;

isolation devices in each gas line between each compression stage and the closed container, said isolation devices comprising at least one of cut-off valves and over-current regulators; and

a switching unit, said switching unit controlling selective operation of the isolation devices to

directly connect a first of the at least one high compression stage inlet to the closed chamber to receive and compress the gas from the closed chamber until gas pressure in the closed chamber falls below an inlet pressure limit value; and

after gas pressure in the closed chamber has fallen below the inlet pressure limit value, isolate the at least one high compression stage from direct connection to the closed chamber, connect the at least one low compression stage inlet to the closed chamber, and feed the output of the

at least one low compression stage into the inlet of the at least one high compression stage for further compression and return to the high pressure chamber.

8. (currently amended) The Device device as claimed in Claim 7, ~~characterized by the fact that the switching unit (8) is connected to further~~ comprising:

a pressure sensor ~~(9) situated on~~ for detecting gas pressure in the closed chamber, (2).

wherein the pressure sensor output is provided to the switching unit for use in determining when to selectively operate the isolation devices.

9. (currently amended) The Device device as claimed in Claim 7, ~~wherein or 8, characterized by the fact that~~ one or more compression stages include multiple compressors conducted in parallel.

10. (currently amended) The device of Claim 7, wherein the closed chamber is a heat treatment quenching process chamber.

11. (currently amended) ~~Use of the~~ The method of ~~as claimed in any one of Claims Claim 1, wherein through 6 or use of the device as claimed in any one of Claims 7 through 9 in the~~ recovery of gas follows release of the gas in a heat treatment quenching process, in the heat treatment.